out to private parties some restaurants/space for restaurants of special cuisines based solely on business considerations and not due to its incompetence/failure.

Construction of High Level Platforms

2004. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the passengers at different stations between Barkar and Khana due to low level of platforms there;

(b) whether the Government are considering to construct high level platforms in those stations;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Railway stations are provided with platforms as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic. On Barkar - Khana Section rail level platforms have been provided at Khana, Rajbandh, Barachak, Paraj and Gaisi and low level platform at Andal. Work of provision of High Level platform at Galsi has been sanctioned. Raising of platforms at other stations also will be considered when so warranted by growth in passenger traffic.

Sanction to Extension of Mumbai Suburban Railway

2005. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned extension of Mumbai Suburban Railway upto Dahanu Road Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Mumbai Suburban trains are likely to be running upto Dahanu Road Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The section upto Dahanu Road is already a notified section under Suburban system. Mumbai Suburban trains which are worked with 1500V DC system, can not be extended until dual voltage rakes become available and other system improvements like automatic block signalling, provision of high level platforms etc. are done. These works are under various stages of execution.

Pending Claims

2006. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of claims from Private parties for supplies made works are pending for settlement in Regional Offices of India Tourism and Development Corporation in mega cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the number of settlement cases lying pending for the last one year;

(c) the total number of cases referred to arbitration particularly in Mumbai and progress made thereunder;

(d) whether the Government are considering to take any fresh steps for settlement of pending claims within a stipulated time; and

(e) if so, the details of major irregularities reported/committed by ITDC and progress of investigation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Presently, no case of claims is reported to be pending in Regional Offices of ITDC pertaining to private parties.

(c) No case has been referred to arbitration from Regional Office, Bombay.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Gauge Converaion

2007. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any work has been commenced to convert the existing Kollam-Schencottah metre gauge railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The work has been included in the Budget 97-98 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

Pension Scheme to the Workers of Indian Oil Corporation

2008. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers employed under Indian Oil Corporation in Eastern Region made petitions demanding immediate implementation of Pension Scheme 1995 and payment of pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Many employees of M/s Indian Oil Corporation in the Eastern Region have submitted representations for implementation of the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 and also for disallowing the exemption application submitted by their management. Final decision on the representations of the employees has not been taken yet.